

294 (XXVI). Establishment of the ESCWA technology centre

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹ Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/68 of 5 November 2004 and the Millennium Declaration,² which identified the promotion of science and technology as a United Nations priority,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009 adopting the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,³ which emphasized the need to promote, including through South-South cooperation, access to and the transfer of technology,

Further recalling its resolution 284 (XXV) of 29 May 2008, which approved the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre for Development,

Expressing its appreciation to Jordan for its offer to host the Centre, and noting that resources for the centre should come from the following sources:

- (a) Support from the host country;
- (b) Support from ESCWA;
- (c) Income received by the Centre for services provided to beneficiaries;
- (d) Any other funding sources approved by the board of governors.

1. *Adopts* the statute of the ESCWA Technology Centre, in accordance with the present resolution, as the basis for its operations;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to establish the first founding board of governors by soliciting nominations from member countries;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of this resolution, including the initial operating phase of the Centre, and the achievements of ESCWA in that regard.

Annex

DRAFT STATUTE OF THE ESCWA TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Establishment

1. The ESCWA Technology Centre shall be established in accordance with the following terms and conditions.

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³ General Assembly resolution 64/222.

Mission

2. The mission of the Centre is to assist members of ESCWA and public and private organizations to acquire the tools and capabilities necessary to accelerate socio-economic development in order to attain technological parity with other nations and regions of the world and to contribute to convert the economies of member countries into economies based on scientific and technological knowledge.

Objectives

3. The objectives of the Centre are to assist the members of ESCWA by strengthening their capabilities to develop and manage national systems; develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; determine the suitable technology for the region and facilitate its development and improve the legal and commercial framework for the transfer of technology. The Centre also aims at enhancing the technological and scientific knowledge content of major economic sectors in member countries.

Functions

4. The Centre will achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:
- (a) Conducting research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities;
 - (b) Providing advisory services;
 - (c) Disseminating information and promoting good practices;
 - (d) Developing partnerships and other networks with regional and international organizations and key stakeholders;
 - (e) Training national personnel, particularly scientists and policy analysts;
 - (f) Assessing the scientific and technological level and content of production and service sectors and measuring performance indicators of those sectors in relation with the transfer of scientific and technological knowledge.

Status and organization

5. The Centre shall have a board of governors (herein referred to as Board), an executive director and staff, and a technical committee.

6. The Centre shall be located in Amman, Jordan. A host country agreement shall be concluded between the Government of Jordan and the United Nations.

7. The activities of the Centre shall be in line with relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and applicable administrative instructions and issuances.

Board of governors

8. The Centre shall have a board of governors consisting of a standing representative designated by the Government of Jordan, and no fewer than six additional representatives nominated by the other members of ESCWA and elected by the Commission. The representatives who are elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election one more time only. If a representative is unable to serve for the full term, the vacancy shall be filled by the Government of that representative. The Executive Secretary of ESCWA or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the board but shall not have the right to vote.

9. During the two year establishment period, a board of governors will be constituted comprising representatives of all member countries who so wish.

10. The Executive Director of the Centre shall serve as secretary of the board of governors and, in such capacity, shall keep and circulate minutes of board meetings to its members.

11. Representatives of (a) any State Member of the United Nations, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies, and (c) such other organizations as the Board may deem appropriate as well as experts in fields of interest to the board may, at the board's discretion, be invited to attend board meetings.

12. The board shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the board shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCWA, who may propose special sessions of the board at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of board members.

A quorum for board meetings shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the board shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the board shall be made by consensus or, where this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

15. The board shall, at each regular session, elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson shall hold office until the next regular session of the board. The chairperson or, in his/her absence, the vice-chairperson shall preside at board meetings. If the chairperson is unable to serve for the full session for which he/she has been elected, the vice-chairperson shall act as chairperson for the remainder of that session.

16. The board shall review the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCWA shall submit an annual report as adopted by the board to the Commission at its regular sessions.

Executive director and staff

17. The Centre shall have an executive director and such additional staff as are appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The executive director and additional staff shall have the status of ESCWA staff members.

18. The executive director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCWA for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical committee

19. The Centre shall have a technical committee consisting of experts from members of ESCWA and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the technical committee shall be appointed by the executive director in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ESCWA.

20. The technical committee shall be responsible for advising the executive director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the technical committee, and the executive director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the board at its next session.

22. The chairperson at each meeting of the technical committee shall be elected by the majority vote of those members of the technical committee present and voting.

Resources of the Centre

23. The Centre shall be financed from the following sources:

- (a) Support from the host country;
- (b) Support from ESCWA;
- (c) Income received by the Centre for services provided to beneficiaries;
- (d) Any other funding sources approved by the board of governors.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities in addition to those received from the host country pursuant to the agreement signed between the host country and the United Nations.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for donations for technical cooperation projects or other special contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the board of governors, the pertinent part of the terms of reference and rules of procedure of ESCWA shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

7th plenary meeting
19 May 2010